

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 T-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 CU-04 RSR-01 IO-12 /098 W
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R 181405 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3499
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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DEPARTMENT PASS USINT CAIRO

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TECH, SA, LE, XF
SUBJECT: FRANGIE VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF: JIDDA 967

SUMMARY: LEBANON' S PRESIDENT FRANGIEH WAS OFFICIAL GUEST OF KING FAISAL FROM MARCH 3-8 , DURING WHICH TIME HE VISITED THE KINGDOM' S THREE PRINCIPAL CITIES AND HELD EXTENSIVE TALKS COVERING USUAL ARRAY OF BILATERAL QUESTIONS AND MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS. VISIT NOTEWORTHY PRIMARILY FOR WARMTH OF RECEPTION ACCORDED FRANGIEH ; EMBASSY NOT AWARE OF ANY IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES RESOLVED AS RESULT OF VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. FRANGIEH' S SIX- DAY VISIT WIDELY COVERED IN PRESS. DURING STAY, HE AND HIS PARTY CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE TALKS IN RIYADH WITH FAISAL AND OTHER MEMBRS OF SAUDI
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HEIERARCHY; LEBANESE TEAM INCLUDED FONMIN ABU HAMAD. FOLLOWING TALKS IN RIYADH, FRANGIEH VISITED EASTERN PROVINCE FOR DAY BEFORE FLYING TO JIDDA FOR CONCLUSION OF VISIT.

2. MOST STRIKING FEATURE OF VISIT WAS WARMTH AND EXTENT OF RECEPTION. IT CLEAR FROM NUMBER OF BUSES DEPOSITING STUDENTS HITHER AND YON ON MOTORCASE ROUTES THAT SAUDI GOVERNMENT WISHED TO GIVE FRANGIEH WARMEST POSSIBLE WELCOME. CERTAINLY IN JIDDA, NO FOREIGN HEAD OF STATE AND CERTAINLY NO CHRISTIAN HEAD OF STATE IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN RECEIVED WITH SUCH PUBLIC FOLDEROL. LEBANESE COMMUNITY HAS COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THIS AS EVIDENCE OF ITS APPRENTLY SECURE POSITION IN SAUDI SOCIETY.

3. JOINT COMMUNIQUE NOTED TWO SIDES HAVE DECIDED TO "GO AHEAD WITH EXECUTION" OF JOINT OIL REFIERY "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE"; ADDED, THEY ALSO PLAN TO INCREASE ITS CAPACITY. HOWEVER, STATEMENT WAS HEDGED BY FACT THAT ANOTHER JOINT COMMISSION, HEADED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS, WAS SET UP TO HOLD "PERIODIC MEETINGS" AND TO IMPLEMENT COMMITTEE'S DECISIONS. REFINERY MAY STILL BE BUILT, BUT TIMEFRAME NO CLEARER THAN PREVIOUSLY. (FONMIN LEGAL ADVISOR MANSURI SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD DCM HE HAD NO NEW INFO ON REFINERY, QUESTION BUT WOULD LET EMB KNOW OF ANY CONCRETE DEVELOPMENTS.) ROYAL ADVISOR PHARAON TOLD AMB REFINERY PROJECT WOULD NEED STILL FURTHER STUDY.

4. BALANCE OF COMMUNIQUE TAKEN UP WITH MUNDANE DECLARATIONS SUPPORTING PALESTINIANS' RIGHTS AND URGING THEY UNIFY, STRESSING NECESSITY OF SAFEGUARDING THE HOLY PLACES IN JERUSALEM, AND AGREEING ON NECESSITY OF UNIFYING ARAB EFFORTS AGAINST ZIONIST AGGRESSORS. COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDED WITH EXPRESSIONS OF MUTUAL ADMIRATION OF TWO LEADERS FOR EACH OTHER.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS NOT LEARNED OF ANY IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES DISCUSSED (OR OF ANY AID EITHER REQUESTED OR GRANTED) AS RESULT VISIT. PRIMARY PURPOSE APPARENTLY WAS CEREMONIAL ONE, AND IN THIS RESPECT, IT WOULD APPEAR LEBANON SHOULD BE WELL-SATISFIED WITH OPEN AFFIRMATION OF ABSENCE OF TIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. COMING IN WAKE OF KHARTOUM, KING AND PRESIDENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAY WELL HAVE USED OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS COMMON PROBLEM

OF PALESTINIAN EXTREMISTS BUT NO EVIDENCE OF THIS LIKELY
TO COME TO OUR ATTENTION.
THACHER

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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